



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sacramento County Honors DWR for Reducing Pollution

SACRAMENTO -- Sacramento County today honored the Department of Water Resources for environmental practices that reduce pollution. DWR was recognized specifically for “green building” practices that save energy and money.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors praised DWR -- and 11 other businesses and government entities -- in a resolution awarding them “Sustainable Business of the Year” honors.

The awards are intended to honor entities “demonstrating environmental excellence and proactive leadership” and encourage practices that support “a clean, safe and healthful environment,” according to county officials.

DWR was recognized chiefly for energy conservation practices. John Andrew, DWR Assistant Deputy Director and Climate Change Program Manager, identified these as: reducing cooling by 30 percent at data centers, saving \$2.2 million via new efficiencies in building maintenance, and adopting Environmental Stewardship principles in DWR engineering practices.

Andrew noted that such conservation efforts are consistent with DWR’s Climate Action Plan, which aims to cut the Department’s greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent below 1990 levels within the next seven years.

The county established a Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) in 1993

to help businesses and governments deal with environmental requirements and needs, especially in the areas of air, water and waste. BEREC selected the nominees for the 2012 "Sustainable Business" honors.

The Board's resolution encouraged businesses, government agencies and the public to observe Sept. 17-22 as National Pollution Prevention Week.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.